

## SPECIFICATION Amendments

Please replace the paragraph immediately following the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" on page 2 of the specification with the following:

As noted above, the present invention concerns identification of an MEKK regulatory factor. This factor, termed herein MEKK interacting ~~FAH~~ FHA protein (MIF1), provides an avenue for modulating MEKK activity, and thus many physiological processes such as apoptosis and cellular responses to inflammation and other stimuli.